

# COVID-19 & HIV Prevention and Care Services

Marwan Haddad, MD, MPH  
Member, HIV Medicine Association Board of Directors  
Medical Director, Center for Key Populations  
Community Health Center, Inc.

Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS  
June 1, 2020

# COVID-19 & HIV Clinical Care: Challenges

- Telehealth
  - Access to reliable phone/internet service
  - Widens disparities for some patients
  - Restrictions on Medication Assisted Treatment
  - Clinic resources & infrastructure
- HIV workforce and team issues
  - ID/HIV providers also leading local COVID-19 responses
- Caring for individuals experiencing homelessness & released from correctional settings

# COVID-19 & HIV Clinical Care: Opportunities

- Telehealth
  - Reduces access barriers for some patients (lower no show rates)
  - Reduces stigma
- Improved medication access
  - Home delivery
  - Early refill, higher quantity limits
- Streamlined Ryan White ADAP certification/recertification

# COVID-19 & HIV Prevention

- Disruptions in PrEP access
  - Staffing, client challenges, shift to telehealth (*AIDS and Behavior*, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10461-020-02893-3>)
- Limited HIV and STI screening
  - For STIs – mainly treating symptomatic patients
- Syringe exchange access
  - Survey found 43% reported decreasing services (*AIDS and Behavior*, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10461-020-02886-2>)

# COVID-19: Patient Needs

*As reported by Ryan White providers regarding the use of CARES Act funding*

- Food and housing
- Transportation
- PPE and COVID-19 testing
- Co-pay and premium support
- Mental health treatment
- Substance use treatment, incl overdose prevention, harm reduction
- Case management services
- Temporary shelter for patients quarantining

# The Way Forward: Supporting HIV Prevention & Care Post-COVID-19

- ✓ Maintain telehealth (video & phone) reimbursement policies
- ✓ Resources for patients to participate in telehealth, eg, Lifeline (phone) Program, expanded broadband Internet access
- ✓ Incentivize state ADAPs to streamline certification/recertification processes
- ✓ Address HIV workforce shortages
  - Increase reimbursement for cognitive services
  - Leverage telehealth, incl allowing across state lines
  - Loan forgiveness for HIV clinicians and dentists (HR 5806, HIV Epidemic Loan-Repayment Program, HELP Act)
- ✓ Invest in safety-net providers: Ryan White Program, Community Health Centers, STI & HIV Prevention, incl syringe services programs